

# .IN\*

**FREE**  
LIKE WE ALL  
SHOULD BE



## ***In the Workplace***

A COLLECTIVE VIEW  
OF MODERN SOCIETY

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2019



WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF .IN\* (PRONOUNCED "INKS"). THE MISSION REMAINS THE SAME AS IT WAS FOR THE FIRST ISSUE: TO COMBINE ART AND TEXT IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES.

1,000 COPIES OF THE FIRST ISSUE WERE PICKED UP ALL OVER THE CHARLOTTE AREA. THANKS TO FRIENDS, THE 'ZINE WAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED IN GREENSBORO, ASHEVILLE, WILMINGTON AND ATLANTA.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO .IN\*. THE FIRST ISSUE FEATURED WONDERFULLY VARIED ART AND LITERARY STYLES AND ADDRESSED A VARIETY OF ISSUES.

WHILE PUTTING TOGETHER THIS ISSUE, A "WORKPLACE" THEME BECAME READILY APPARENT. WE HAVE STORIES FROM A FORMER WALMART EMPLOYEE, A FORMER SPORTS ARENA EMPLOYEE AND YOUR STANDARD CUBICLE DWELLERS. IT'S ALWAYS INTERESTING TO STAND IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES AND SEE HOW THEIR LIFE COMPARES AND CONTRASTS TO OUR OWN.

THANKS TO THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS. THEY MADE IT GREAT, AND WE'LL BE DISTRIBUTING THE 'ZINE AT LOCALLY-OWNED RESTAURANTS, COFFEE SHOPS, COMIC BOOK SHOPS, CIGAR BARS AND RETAIL STORES AS WELL AS MALLS, SUPERMARKETS, HOTELS AND WHEREVER ELSE WE CAN DO SOME GUERILLA MARKETING.

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS WHETHER IT'S ART, A STORY, A POEM OR A COMBINATION. TELL YOUR WRITER AND ARTIST FRIENDS TOO! SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO [INXCOMIC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:INXCOMIC@GMAIL.COM). AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS ISSUE.



Black clouds grey morning  
 turbulent mood swings looking  
 out for myself watching my back holding  
 my tongue. The humming of the computer  
 the buzzing of fluorescent lights the inner workings  
 of the political machine. Phone rings no message  
 blank stares voices in the air murmuring murmuring:  
 the slow breathing of a long day. Self-portrait of a  
 cookie-cutter man head squeezed out of a tight  
 collar wrists aching watching the clock tick  
 tock tick tock 5 o'clock is



forever

forever

'Cubicle Life'  
 words & images  
 ©Jerry Kirk

JRK

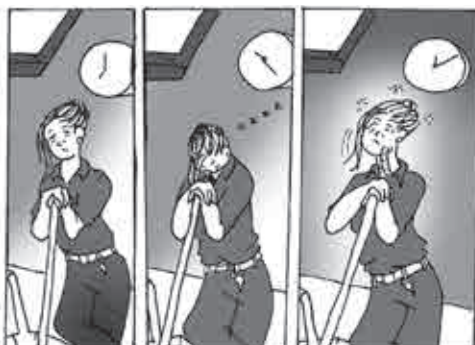




# A Day in the Life of an Arena Custodian

by Karla Holland





# ALL-MART

WORK MORE. EARN LESS.

BY KEVIN BARRELL













# MUNDANE

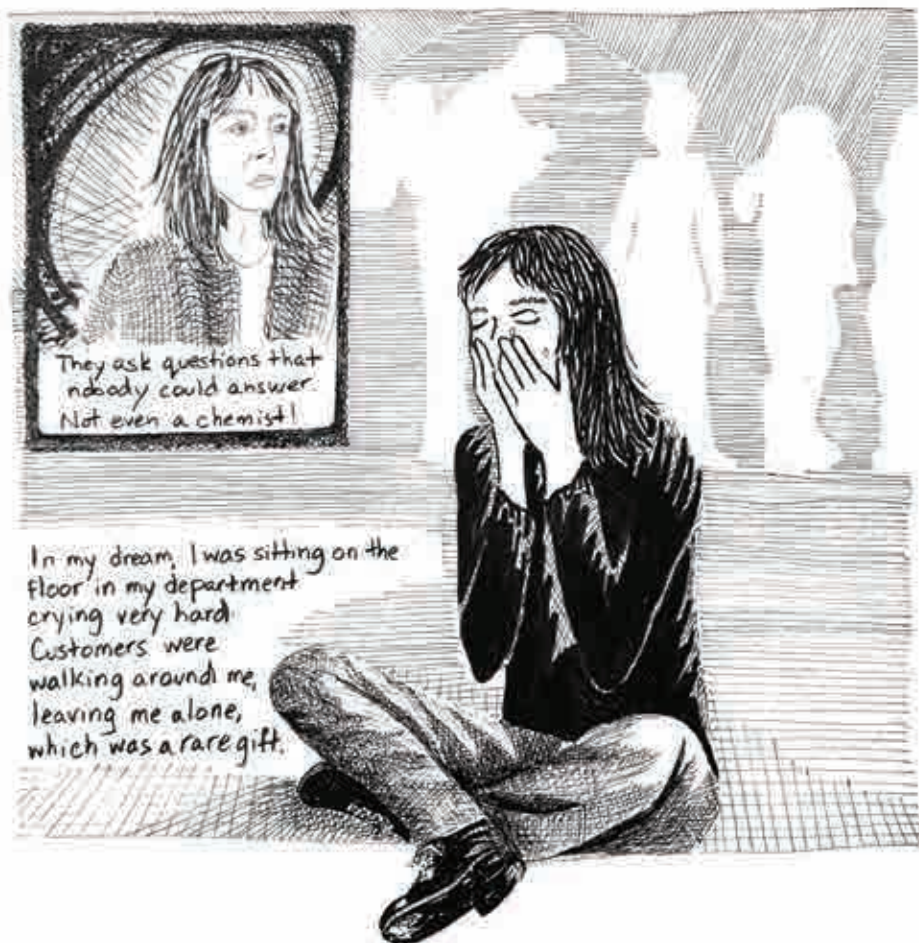
Real reasons I might have been late for work



BY

Emily Clancy

# WIZARDRY







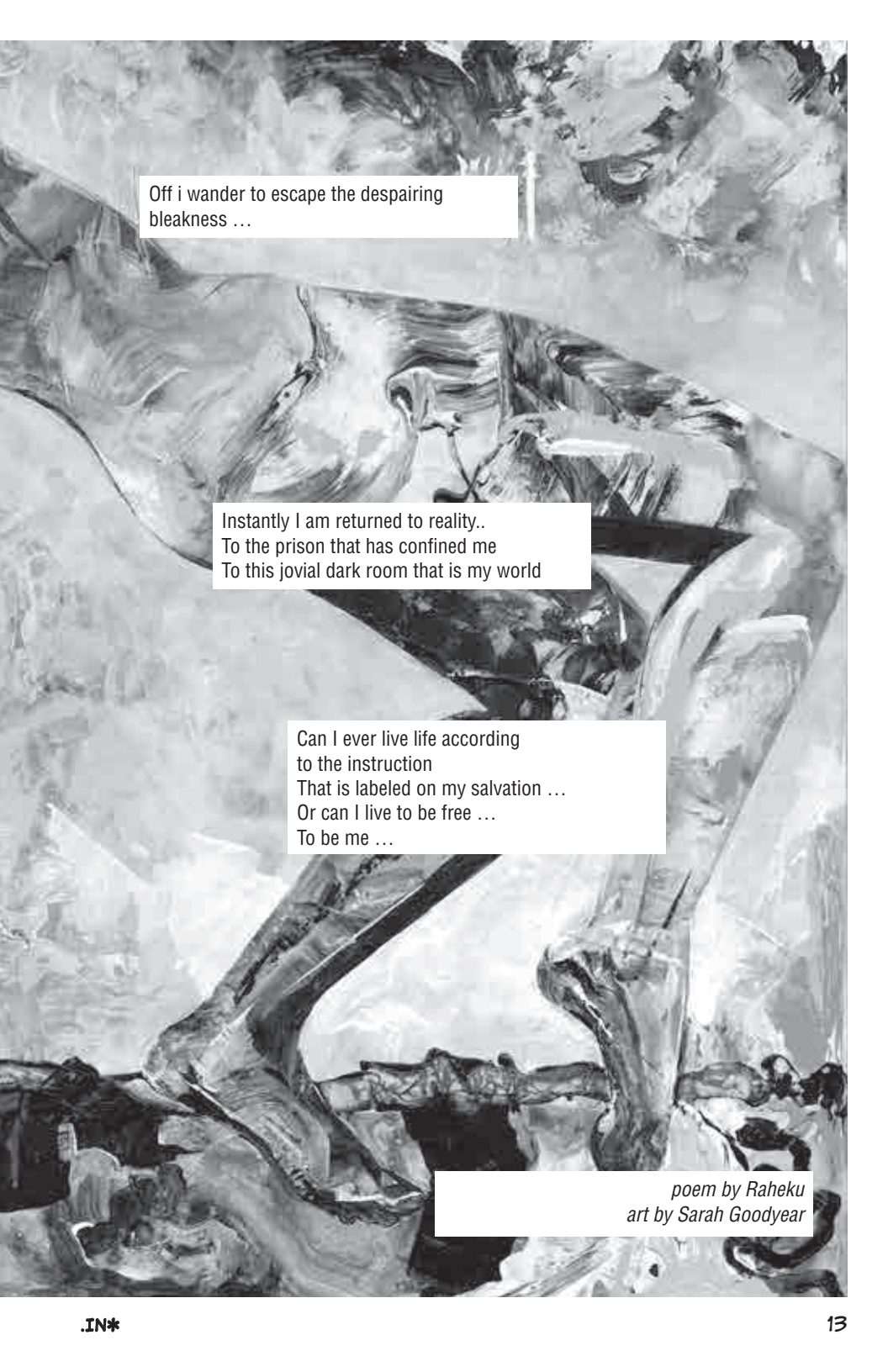
## THOUGHTS OF A BIPOLAR CHALLENGE

What is the requirement  
To develop the necessary experience  
That builds confidence

Each day as a new ray shines  
I achieve the exhilarating emptiness  
That invites the new dawn  
To conquer the image of what is meant to be.

I pray for a miracle to  
Lift this veil that covers the sun shine  
But the sensational joy that leaves me painful  
Can only be illusions that keeps me forever  
In doubting hopes.

My spirit wonders if life can ever be  
Like an easy Sunday morning,  
The ones that I chose to remember  
As if just yesterday ...



Off i wander to escape the despairing  
bleakness ...

Instantly I am returned to reality..  
To the prison that has confined me  
To this jovial dark room that is my world

Can I ever live life according  
to the instruction  
That is labeled on my salvation ...  
Or can I live to be free ...  
To be me ...

*poem by Raheku  
art by Sarah Goodyear*

## Self Portrait

I am an open book  
with strategically stuck together pages  
written in invisible ink



written by Lyrispect  
art by Greg Russell





# Complicated

by Aliya Banks

Complicated

Like a Facebook status

It's complicated

How I could even come to adore you

There's a heavy ball that sinks

deeper in my belly

whenever I see you

and yet my heart beats, like a tribal calling to yours

and I'm breathless

from dancing in the dirt telling the Earth how I

feel about you

It's so fucking complicated cause

my right brain says

Expectations become the priority

and all common sense is seized

but there's nothing common about the words

we speak in private moments

So I back away and I back off

but my body craves you, calls you

and I wonder if you hear me

at night when you're alone in your bed

I'm not asking to be rescued

I'm no damsel in distress

but I would like for it to be less

complicated

Instead of the square peg in the round whole

when we talk I am whole

and my whole being feels in control

but when we get our deepest in thought

that's when I loose thought

and all I see are those lips

that should be kissed

by me

Now that's complicated

because I don't want you to get it twisted

but I'm twisted over you

and just like that shit gets weird

real quick, real fast

and we don't know each other

like we used to do

We could be on the verge of becoming

strangers

... And it's right back to being

complicated

Like calculus I can't figure it out

I'd rather not be a succubus

but damn it when I close my eyes

I think about us

and dirty thoughts never come clean

no matter how I scrub and scrub

you just won't come out

of my head

It's far from simple

as I battle and grapple with

the distance of boundaries set

You're so close to me

and at arms length

Days I wonder if I have the strength

to resist you

It's complicated because

underneath it all

I'm intense. I AM fire

So be aware that only you

have the privilege of taking me higher

like Nirvana, like Zion, like Heaven

My lack of guard is the point

I smile when we reminisce over music like

hey, that's my joint!

We bop heads and sing in tune

For a brief moment there's room

for what feels like

a lifetime of differences

yet we're the same and so much alike

like young ones with a note for a sweetheart

I "like like" you

for lack of a better term

My inner child wants to hold you

but then I'm snapped back to

should I? and what if he? and could we even

Be? and

Now I'm left to ponder and wonder like Stevie

I'm overjoyed and on most occasions

slightly annoyed

So there it is

It's complicated like my Facebook status

I'm the one with feelings held at bay

refusing to say

just how complicated

it really is.









"Directions" by Keith Gall

# BALLOON ANIMALS

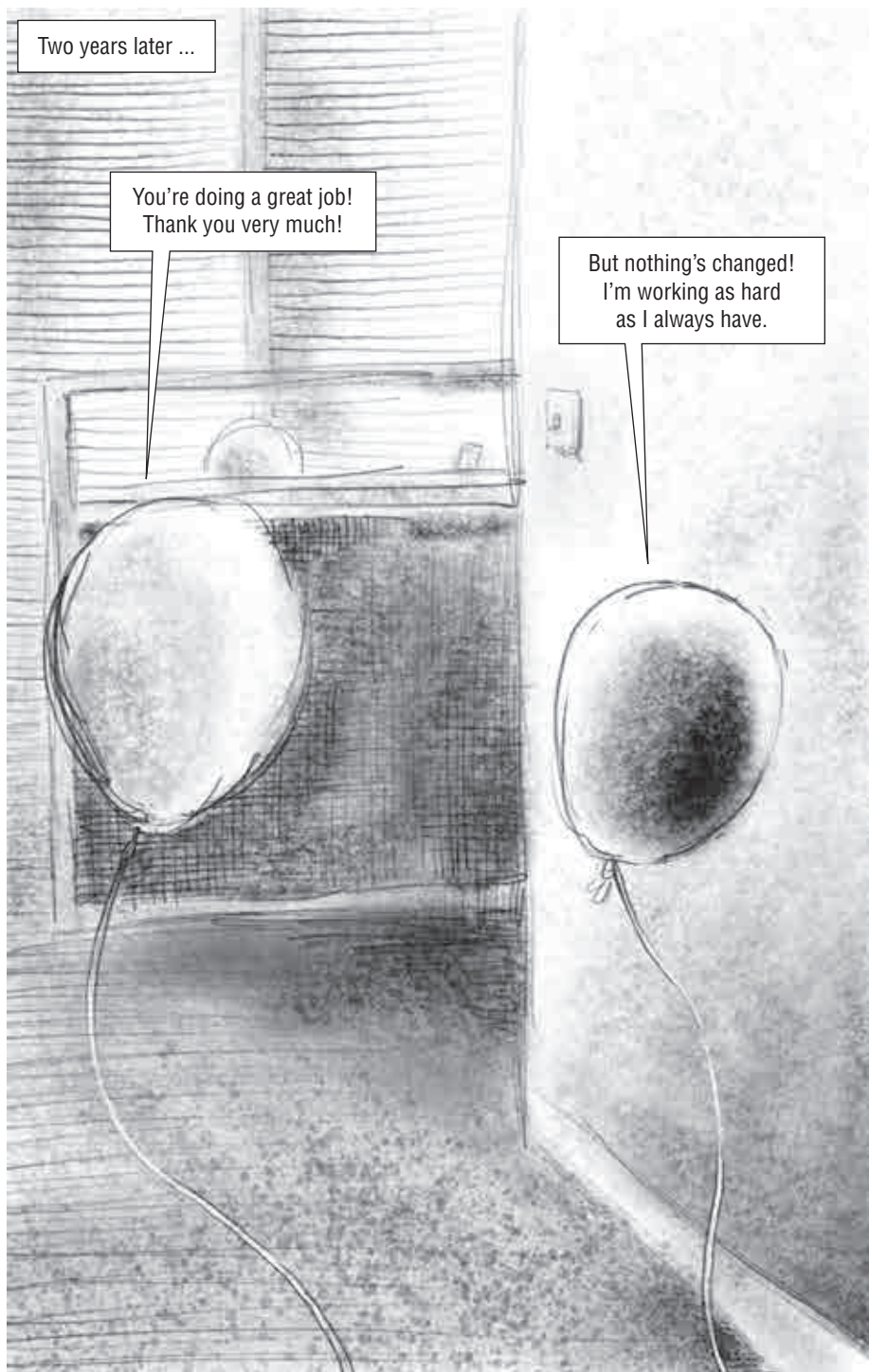
by  
Hans Downe

Your work sucks. You're slow. You make mistakes. You're not winning us any awards.

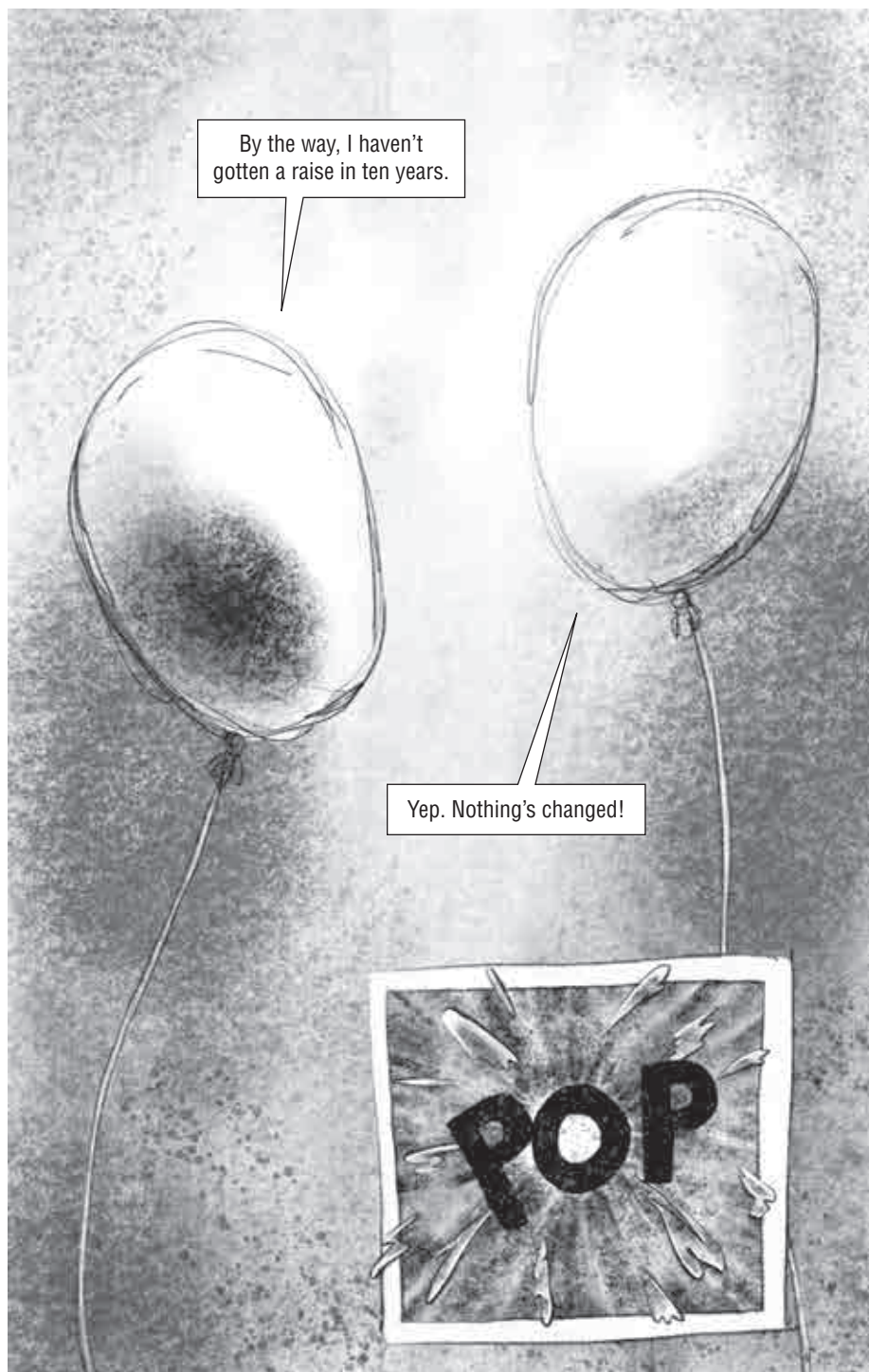
Every time I look at your computer, you're on Facebook or rollingstone.com. I buy things on Amazon at work sometimes, but ...

But I'm fast. I'm good. I don't use Facebook, and I don't shop on Amazon. I correct other people's mistakes all day long, but I don't threaten to fire them.  
"I'm the best there is at what I do."

From now on, you're on probation.







By the way, I haven't  
gotten a raise in ten years.

Yep. Nothing's changed!

## .IN\* ISSUE #2 CONTRIBUTORS



### P. 3 CUBICLE LIFE

#### **JERRY KIRK** WRITER/ARTIST

JERRY KIRK IS AN AWARD-WINNING ARTIST LOCATED IN CHARLOTTE. HIS WORK IS IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE HISTORIC N. DAVIDSON ST. ART DISTRICT KNOWN AS "NODA." FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SEE MORE ART, VISIT THE OFFICIAL SITE: [WWW.JERRYKIRK.COM](http://WWW.JERRYKIRK.COM)



### P. 4 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ARENA CUSTODIAN

#### **KARLA HOLLAND** WRITER/ARTIST

KARLA IS A WILMINGTON-BASED GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND ILLUSTRATOR. A FORMER RESIDENT OF THE QUEEN CITY, SHE LEFT HER MARK IN THE ARTS COMMUNITY INCLUDING SKETCHCHARLOTTE, TANGENTS MAGAZINE AND THE CHARLOTTE ART LEAGUE. SHE CONTINUES TO CONTEMPLATE ART'S NAVEL THROUGH HER SKETCHES ON INSTAGRAM AT @THEGORGONTRANSPLANT. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT HER AT [THEGORGONTRANSPLANT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THEGORGONTRANSPLANT@GMAIL.COM).



### P. 6 ALL-MART

#### **KEVIN BARRELL** WRITER/ARTIST

KEVIN IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER FROM CHARLOTTE. HE SPENDS HIS FREE TIME DOING HIS THREE FAVORITE THINGS: DRAWING, SLEEPING AND EATING. HE BELIEVES THAT SOMETIMES LIFE SUCKS, BUT MAKING COMICS ABOUT HOW IT SUCKS CAN MAKE IT A LITTLE BETTER. SEE HIS WORK ON INSTAGRAM @KEVBARRELL



### P. 10 MUNDANE WIZARDRY

#### **EMILY CLANCY** WRITER/ARTIST

AN ANALYST IN GREENSBORO BY DAY, LAST YEAR CLANCY FOUND HERSELF CARVING OUT TIME FOR ART BY DRAWING COMICS INTO THE NIGHT. WORK MAKES HER LATE FOR THE LIMITLESS THINGS SHE LOVES: URBAN SKETCHING, ABSTRACT PAINTING AND MAKING THINGS WITH HER DAUGHTER. FIND MORE OF HER WORK ON INSTAGRAM AT @MUNDANEWIZARDRY.



### P. 12 THOUGHTS OF A BIPOLAR CHALLENGE

#### **RAHEKU** WRITER

RAHEKU IS A CREATOR OF MANY TALENTS INCLUDING POETRY. SHE IS ORIGINALLY FROM LIBERIA AND COMES TO CHARLOTTE VIA LONG ISLAND AND PHILADELPHIA.



#### **SARAH GOODYEAR** ARTIST

SARAH GOODYEAR IS A SELF-TAUGHT, WEST VIRGINIA-BASED ARTIST. HER PAINTINGS ARE ACRYLIC AND GESSO ON CANVAS AND TYPICALLY FEATURE THEMES OF WOMANHOOD, VULNERABILITY, SEXUALITY AND MOTHER NATURE. TO EXPLORE HER FULL ONLINE GALLERY, VISIT [SARAHGOODYEAR.COM](http://SARAHGOODYEAR.COM).



#### P. 14 SELF PORTRAIT

##### **LYRISPECT** WRITER/ARTIST

LYRISPECT IS AN AWARD-WINNING POET/MC, ACTIVIST, ACTRESS AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER WHOSE WORK HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, THE NAACP, U.S. COAST GUARD AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. SHE WAS INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE, A RECIPIENT OF THE SONIA SANCHEZ WOMEN'S STUDIES AWARD AND THE ASIA ADAMS SAVE OUR CHILDREN FOUNDATION POSITIVE IMAGE AWARD.



##### **GREG RUSSELL** ARTIST

GREG IS A TRUE CHARLATAN, BORN AND RAISED IN CHARLOTTE. HE IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER, ILLUSTRATOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, WEB DESIGNER, WRITER AND EDITOR, BUT HIS FAVORITE THING TO DO IS DRAW COMICS. SEE EXAMPLES OF HIS WORK AT [GREGRUSSELL.US](http://GREGRUSSELL.US)



#### P. 15 44 YEARS OLD

##### **HENRY EUDY** WRITER/ARTIST

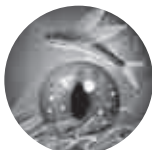
ACCORDING TO HIS INSTAGRAM PROFILE, EUDY IS A WIZARD. A TRUE STAR. YOU CAN FIND SAID INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT AT [HENRY\\_EUDY](https://www.instagram.com/HENRY_EUDY).



#### P. 16 COMPLICATED

##### **ALIYA BANKS** WRITER/ARTIST

ALIYA IS A FREELANCE ARTIST STRETCHING HER HANDS IN MANY CREATIVE DIRECTIONS. SHE HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE ARTS SINCE THE AGE OF NINE ENJOYING EVERYTHING FROM DANCE TO SINGING, JEWELRY MAKING AND POETRY. HER WORK HAS BEEN FEATURED IN THE BOUTIQUES OF THE NORTH SHORE OF LOUISIANA AS WELL AS THE ART HOUSE OF COVINGTON WHERE HER SERIES OF ABSTRACT, HAND-DRAWN TREES WAS ON DISPLAY. HER WORK CAN BE SEEN ON HER INSTAGRAM PAGE @ARTISTABANKS



#### P. 18 DIRECTIONS

##### **KEITH GALL** ARTIST

GALL IS A MULTI-TALENTED, CROSS-PLATFORM ARTIST SWITCHING BETWEEN PAINTING AND THE COMPUTER. IN BARBADOS, HE WORKED AS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER IN THE ADVERTISING AND PRINT INDUSTRY, IN THE CARIBBEAN, HE WORKED AS A GRAPHIC CONSULTANT. IN THE U.S., HIS LOVE FOR GRAPHICS AND FINE ART CONTINUES.



#### P. 19 BALLOON ANIMALS

##### **HANS DOWNE** WRITER/ARTIST

DOWNE IS A RENOWNED SURREALIST PAINTER IN HIS HOME COUNTRY. HE MOVED TO THE U.S. IN 2008 AND TEACHES ART TO MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES AT HIS HOME IN GASTON COUNTY.



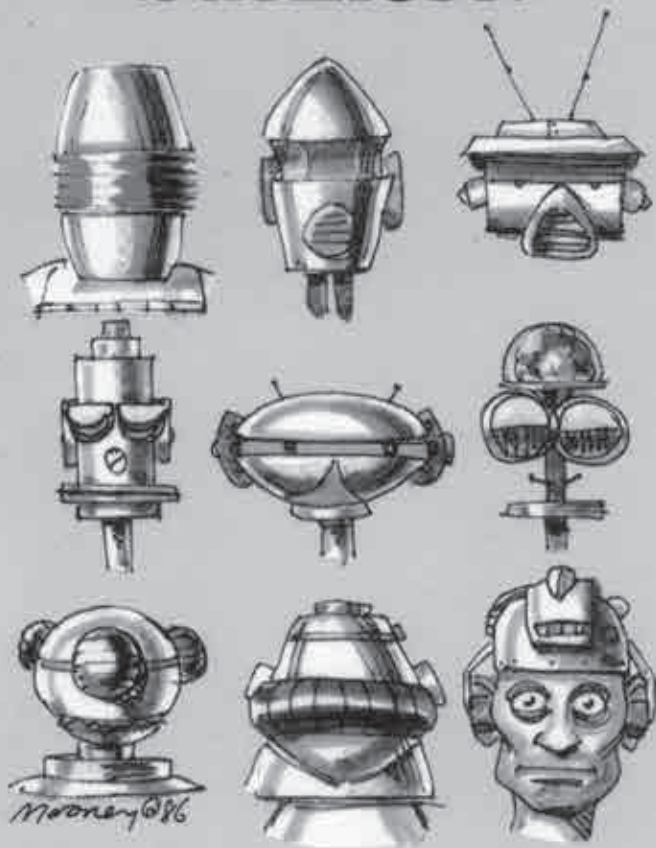
#### P. 20 HIRE A HUMAN

##### **GERRY MOONEY** WRITER/ARTIST

MOONEY IS A COMMERCIAL ILLUSTRATOR AND THE CREATOR OF THE LEGENDARY GRAVITY POSTER ("GRAVITY. IT ISN'T JUST A GOOD IDEA. IT'S THE LAW.") WHICH WAS CITED IN THE FEB. 2004 ISSUE OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN AND WHICH IS STILL AVAILABLE AT [WWW.MOONEYART.COM](http://WWW.MOONEYART.COM). MOONEY'S WORK APPEARED IN MANY NEW YORK-AREA PUBLICATIONS INCLUDING FORBES, PARENTS MAGAZINE, THE DAILY NEWS, GOLF DIGEST, MEDICAL ECONOMICS, THE NEW REPUBLIC, ISAAC ASIMOV'S SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE, NEWSWEEK AND MAD MAGAZINE. HE IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF MARKETING A FRENCH-LANGUAGE TABLE GAME THAT HE HAS CREATED.



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